Prabhakaran's efforts to establish better relations with India

4569. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement made by LTTE Chief V. Prabhakaran to the effect that he wanted to forge closer and better ties with India which is crucial to the success of peace process;

(b) whether it is.a fact that he urged Government to forget the past and lift the ban on his organisation which was imposed 14 years back in the wake of assassination of Rajiv Gandhi; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government's stand on the LTTE is well known. LTTE remains a banned organization in India.

Indo-Thailand Agreements

4570. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed some agreements with Thailand recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in what manner the two countries are being benefited out of these agreements; and

(d) how long this agreement will be operational?

THE MINISTER.OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and Thailand signed three Agreements during the two visits of Thai Prime Minister to India in November 2001 and February 2002, *viz:*.

(i) MoU on the Collaboration on Information Technology and services;

(ii) Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of outer Space for Peaceful Purposes; and

(iii) Agreement on Scientific, Technical and Environmental Cooperation and Transfer of Technology.

(c) The above agreements will contribute to closer cooperation between India and Thailand in the specific areas covered such as information technology, space, and science and technology and environment.

(d) While the MoU on Information Technology and Services is valid for 3 years, the other two Agreements— on Cooperation m the Exploration and Use of Outer Space and on Scientific, Technical and Enviromental Cooperation—are valid for 5-years each.

Terrorist groups banned by USA

†4571. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the terrorist organisations and groups which were involved in terrorist activities in India have been banned by the America during last one year;

(b) the names of terrorist organisations and groups in whose respect the imposition of the ban was requested by Government but the U.S. have not banned them, so far;

(c) the number of Pakistan based terrorist groups which are operating their terrorist activities in India; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government for getting them banned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) All major Pakistan-based terrorist organisations involved in terrorist activities in India have been prescribed by the United States under the provisions of its domestic law. These include Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-lslam and Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.